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FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 19, 1954

Ben Bradlee, who has left the Embassy to report for Newsweek, came in for what I hope was a thorough briefing on EDC. His magazine has always been gloomy and unconstructive on the subject.

André de Staercke stopped to see me at the house just before lunch to advise me of a conversation yesterday between Laniel and Baron Guillaume, the Belgian Ambassador, now Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in point of service. Laniel spoke of new conditions to be added to the EDC Treaty, possible modifications of the text, and generally displayed a lack of resolution not ungratifying to Guillaume, who, like the slick, unreliable, conniving Italian Ambassador Quaroni, is against the treaty, but for better motives. Guillaume is a man of character but of narrow views.

McDonald of the Saturday Evening Post called on me in connection with an article he is writing on EDC. He is intelligent.

I talked to Monnet in Luxembourg and got off a cable to Foster in the hope it will wind up the matter of the press release on the CSC investment negotiations.

Tonight E. and I went to dinner at the David Schoenbruns'. There were a number of other people there, including Maurice Schumann and Mademoiselle Sicard, Pleven's Chef de Cabinet.

After dinner Maurice and I spent an hour or more alone. He had passed two hours and a half with Laniel this afternoon. Besides his position as Under Secretary at the Quai d'Orsay, he is a close personal friend of the Prime Minister. He expressed complete confidence in Laniel's intentions. He said the Prime Minister was very anxious to talk to me. I answered that I was entirely at his

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disposition. Schumann wanted to talk to me as an old friend, and ask whether I could not be authorized by Washington to discuss EDC matters of mutual interest to the U. S. and French Governments with the leading French politicians without the presence of members of our Embassy. I told him this presented a problem for the Department, and it seemed best for me to stay out of such affairs as much as possible. He understood this situation but said he had talked it over with various French officials and they felt the time had come when I must be interjected into some of their domestic as well as foreign concerns insofar as they bore on EDC.

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